



Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Office of the Secretary

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2014 Governor's Ambassador Awards announced *Public employees honored*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 8, 2014) – Public employees were honored today with the presentation of the sixth-annual Governor's Ambassador Awards. Personnel Cabinet Secretary Timothy Longmeyer commemorated Public Service Recognition Week by recognizing the employees for exceptional service in the workplace and in their communities.

"Public employees are an extraordinary group," Secretary Longmeyer said. "They are servants to others, and their career is focused on giving, serving and providing a better way of life for all our citizens. Today, we recognize the cream of that crop, and I invite all Kentuckians to continue honoring our public servants for the work they do each and every day."

Created in 2008, the Governor's Ambassador Awards was established to highlight stories of employees who have made a positive impact on their co-workers, customers or community. Nominations for the awards are accepted throughout the year in six categories: customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork, or community service and volunteerism. The 2014 awards generated nominations involving nearly 200 employees.

A selection committee reviews the submissions and three finalists are chosen in each category. First Lady Jane Beshear and Secretary Longmeyer serve as co-chairs of the selection committee. Gov. Steve Beshear, who proclaimed Oct. 5-11 Public Service Recognition Week, selects the six overall winners in each category. All names are removed from the submissions to ensure fairness and anonymity.

Award recipients are honored by having a personalized engraved brick placed along Ambassador Avenue outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

The 2014 award recipients include:

Community Service and Volunteerism:

Jennifer Ratliff, Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, for her work with [Pawsibilities Unleashed](#), the Center for Courageous Kids, and the Wounded Warriors Project.

Courage:

James Burke, Department of Parks/Rangers Division within the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, who responded to a call for assistance while on duty at [Jenny Wiley State Resort Park](#).

Customer Service:

Mamie Masters, a 23-year veteran laundry worker at [Thomson Hood Veterans Center](#) with the Department for Veterans Affairs, who goes well beyond her normal duties to make life better for the residents and employees.

Leadership:

Bruce Brooks, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, for his role with [GEAR UP Kentucky](#), a program to build a sustainable college-going culture in schools with a high percentage of low income students.

Professional Achievement:

Shelley Singleton, [Transportation Cabinet](#), whose leadership and educational efforts have resulted in significant reductions in injuries and accidents in her district.

Teamwork:

Family Support Redesign Implementation Team, which is part of the [Department for Community Based Services](#) within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, for its work on an extensive family support process redesign needed as a result of the Health Benefit Exchange and Medicaid expansion. <https://kynect.ky.gov/>

For additional information about the Governor's Ambassador Award Program, visit the Personnel Cabinet's website at [personnel.ky.gov](#).

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